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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method of culturing a Clostridium difficile, said method comprising growing said Clostridium difficile in a medium that is substantially free of animal-derived products.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said medium comprises a compound derived from a vegetable.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein said vegetable is a soybean.

4. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 2, wherein said compound is hydrolyzed soy.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said medium further comprises an iron source.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said culturing is carried out under anaerobic conditions.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said Clostridium difficile is being grown as a seed culture.

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8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein said seed culture started by inoculation from a stock culture that was grown in medium that was substantially free of animal-derived products.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said *Clostridium difficile* is being grown as a fermentation culture.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein said fermentation culture was inoculated from a seed culture that was grown in medium that was substantially free of animal-derived products.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein said seed culture was a second seed culture.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, further comprising isolating *Clostridium difficile* Toxins from said medium.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of obtaining *Clostridium difficile* toxins, said method comprising the steps of: culturing *Clostridium difficile* in a first medium under conditions that facilitate growth of *Clostridium difficile*, wherein said first medium is substantially free of animal-derived products; inoculating a second medium with all or a portion of said first medium after said culturing, wherein said second medium is substantially free of animal-derived products; culturing said inoculated second medium under conditions that facilitate

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growth of *Clostridium difficile* and toxin production; and isolating *Clostridium difficile* toxins from said second medium.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said first and second media comprise a compound derived from a vegetable.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein said vegetable is a soybean.

16. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of claim 14[[5]], wherein said compound is hydrolyzed soy.

17. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of said culturing of said *Clostridium difficile* in said first or second media comprising *Clostridium difficile* or the step of culturing said inoculated second medium is carried out under anaerobic conditions.

18. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein step the culturing said *Clostridium difficile* in said first medium was started by inoculation of said first medium with a previous *Clostridium difficile* culture that was cultured in medium that was substantially free of animal-derived products.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said previous culture was a stock culture.

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20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said previous culture was a previous seed culture that was obtained by inoculation from a stock culture that was prepared by culture in medium that was substantially free of animal-derived products.

21. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a culture medium that is substantially free of animal products and compris[[cs]]ing Clostridium difficile.

22. (Original) The composition of claim 21, comprising a compound derived from a vegetable.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 22, wherein said vegetable is a soybean.

24. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 22[[3]], wherein said compound is hydrolyzed soy.

25. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 21, further comprising an iron source.